Sub C1 cont

or a nicotine derivative; and a second component comprising L-DOPA.

11. (Amended) The drug composition of claim 10 wherein said second component includes L-DOPA.

B1 cont

12. (Amended) The drug composition of claim 10 wherein said second component further comprises a dopaminergic agonist.

Sub C2

13. (Amended) The drug composition of claim 12 wherein said dopaminergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of bromocriptine, pyribedil and biperiden.

Sub C3

15. (Amended) A method for improving the functionality of D1 and D2 dopaminergic receptors associated with neurodegenerative diseases, multi-systemic atrophies or both, comprising administering to a subject over a long term period an effective dose of at least two drug components comprising as a first component nicotine or a nicotine derivative, and a second component comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of L-DOPA and dopaminergic agonists.

B2

B3 Sub C4

18. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said D1 and D2 dopaminergic receptors are associated with neurodegenerative diseases.

Sub C5

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said second component of said drug composition is L-DOPA and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of bromocriptine, pyribedil and biperiden.

B4

22. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said drug composition is administered transdermally, subcutaneously, extracoporeally or orally.

B5 Sub C6

24. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said first component is administered at a gradually increasing rate.

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28. (Amended) A method for treating a neurodegenerative disease, a multi-systemic atrophy, or both, in a human mammal comprising administering over a long term period an effective dose of at least two drug components comprising as a first component, nicotine or a nicotine derivative, and a second component comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of L-DOPA and dopaminergic agonists.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said second component of said drug composition is L-DOPA.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein said second component of said drug composition is L-DOPA and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of bromocriptine, pyribedil and biperiden.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said drug composition is administered transdermally, subcutaneously, extracoporeally or orally.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein said first component is administered at a gradually increasing rate.

Please cancel claims 17 and 29.

Insert new claims 39-49 as follows:

39. (NEW) The drug composition of claim 10 wherein said nicotine or a nicotine derivative is present in an amount sufficient to be administered to said subject at a rate of from 93 mg to 160 mg per day.

40. (NEW) The drug composition of claim 10 wherein said nicotine or a nicotine derivative is present in an amount sufficient to be administered to said subject at a rate of from 1.57 mg to 5 mg per day per kilogram of body weight of said subject.

41. (NEW) The drug composition of any of claims 39 and 40 wherein said L-DOPA is present in an amount sufficient to be administered to said subject at a rate of 0.2 mg to 3 mg per day per kilogram of body weight of said subject.

42. (NEW) A drug composition for continuous, or progressive, or continuous and progressive administration to a subject orally, subcutaneously, transdermally, or any combination thereof, comprising as a first component, nicotine or a nicotine derivative; and a second component comprising L-DOPA, wherein said nicotine or nicotine derivative is present in an amount sufficient to be administered to said subject at a rate of 0.2 mg to 5 mg per day per kg of body weight of said subject, and wherein said L-DOPA is present in an amount sufficient to be administered to said subject at a rate of 0.2 mg to 3 mg per day per kg of body weight of said subject.

43. (NEW) The drug composition of any of claims 10-14 and 39-42 wherein the dosage form of at least one component is a transdermal patch.

44. (NEW) The method of any of claims 15 and 28 wherein said administering is selected from the group consisting of continuous, progressive, and continuous and progressive.

45. (NEW) The method of claim 44 wherein said nicotine or nicotine derivative is administered at a rate of from 93 mg to 160 mg per day.

46. (NEW) The method of claim 44 wherein said nicotine or nicotine derivative is administered at a rate of 0.2 mg to 5 mg per day per kg of body weight of said subject, and wherein said L-DOPA is administered at a rate of 0.2 mg to 3 mg per day per kg of body weight of said subject.

47. (NEW) The method of claim 20 wherein said L-DOPA is administered at a rate of 0.2 mg to 3 mg per day per kilogram of body weight of said subject.

48. (NEW) The method of claim 44 wherein at least one of said components is administered using a transdermal patch.

49. (NEW) The method of claim 35 wherein said administration of said first component at a gradually increasing rate is accompanied by a concomitant reduction in the L-DOPA dose.